
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 24 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO,
STREET, FARNESE, AUMENT, BROWNE, SCHWANK, KEARNEY, BAKER,
TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, YUDICHAK, BARTOLOTTA, SABATINA AND
MENSCH, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2019, as "National Black HIV/AIDS
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention (CDC), HIV/AIDS affect African Americans at alarming
5 rates; and

6 WHEREAS, Of all the racial and ethnic groups within the
7 United States, African Americans are the most affected by
8 HIV/AIDS; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2017, African Americans comprised only 13% of the
10 United States population but accounted for 43% of all new HIV
11 infections; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2017, African-American males were diagnosed with
13 AIDS approximately 8.5 times the rate as Caucasian males,
14 and African-American males are 7 times more likely to die from
15 HIV/AIDS than Non-Hispanic Caucasian males; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2015, African-American females were diagnosed
17 with AIDS 23 times the rate as Caucasian females, and African-

1 American females are 15 times more likely to die from HIV/AIDS
2 than Non-Hispanic Caucasian females; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2015, the HIV incidence rate in Pennsylvania was
4 52 new cases per 100,000 population; and

5 WHEREAS, "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" seeks to
6 educate African Americans about this devastating disease through
7 a platform emphasizing four main points: education, testing,
8 involvement and treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" began in
10 1999 as five organizations worked collectively to assist in the
11 effort to decrease and ultimately eradicate HIV/AIDS in the
12 African-American community; and

13 WHEREAS, The five organizations included: Concerned Black
14 Men, Inc., of Philadelphia, Health Watch Information and
15 Promotion Services, Inc., Jackson State University - Mississippi
16 Urban Research Center, the National Black Alcoholism and
17 Addictions Council and the National Black Leadership Commission
18 on AIDS; and

19 WHEREAS, Healthy Black Communities, Inc., (HBC) will serve as
20 the leading organization ensuring the initiative is carried out
21 annually; and

22 WHEREAS, HBC maintains an active Internet presence promoting
23 awareness of the importance of educating communities on the
24 effects of HIV/AIDS; and

25 WHEREAS, It is imperative that African Americans educate
26 themselves and their communities on the effects of HIV/AIDS; and

27 WHEREAS, African Americans should be tested to learn their
28 HIV/AIDS status because education and early detection are
29 critical in saving lives; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize February 7, 2019, as

1 "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate annually recognize "National Black
4 HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" to increase education, promote inclusion
5 and emphasize the importance of testing and HIV/AIDS treatment.